

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

5. (currently amended) A device for filtering particles from and reducing pressure of air that builds up in a crankcase of an operating internal combustion engine, the crankcase disposed adjacent a piston with an inlet manifold supplying filtered air to the piston, comprising:

a filter container having an upstream air inlet including means for connection to the crankcase to remove air under pressure and oil therefrom, and a downstream air outlet including means for connection to the inlet manifold to supply filtered air thereto, the air outlet being disposed at level above the air inlet; and

a filter ~~means~~ material comprising at least one wall or cylinder of fibrous material running between ~~walls~~ upper and lower ends of the filter container, separating the container thereby into an inlet chamber comprising the inlet, and an outlet chamber comprising the air outlet ~~and a liquid outlet,~~ with the air passing transversely through the filter material, the fibrous material comprising needled or thermally bonded fibers, the filter means ~~being disposed at~~ extending to a level above the oil outlet such that filter surface is available which is not contaminated by oil from the crankcase;

the liquid outlet being disposed in a lower portion of the ~~outlet chamber~~ filter container and separate from the air outlet, the liquid outlet receiving particles which fall from the filter means and oil from the crankcase, and comprising means for connection to the crankcase to return the oil and particles collected by the filter thereto.

6. (previously presented) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the filter container has a fixed position in relation

to the internal combustion engine.

7. (previously presented) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the filter container has a predetermined angle in relation to the internal combustion engine.

8. (previously presented) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the fibrous material is comprised of fiber mats, in which the fibers have a diameter of 1-40 μm .

9. (previously presented) In combination,
an internal combustion engine including a crankcase disposed adjacent a piston with an inlet manifold supplying filtered air to the piston, and
a device for filtering and reducing pressure of air that builds up in a crankcase during operation of the engine, comprising:

a filter container having an upstream air inlet including means for connection to the crankcase to remove air under pressure and oil therefrom, and a downstream air outlet including means for connection to the inlet manifold to supply filtered air thereto, the air outlet being disposed at a level above the air inlet; and

a filter ~~means~~ material comprising at least one wall or cylinder of fibrous material running between ~~walls~~ upper and lower ends of the filter container, separating the container thereby into an inlet chamber comprising the inlet, and an outlet chamber comprising the air outlet ~~and a liquid outlet, with the air passing transversely through the filter material,~~ the fibrous material comprising needled or thermally bonded fibers, the filter means ~~being disposed at~~ extending to a level above the liquid outlet such that filter surface is available which is ~~to~~ not contaminated by oil from the crankcase;

the liquid outlet being disposed in a lower portion of the ~~outlet chamber~~ filter container and separate from the air

outlet, the liquid outlet receiving particles which fall from the filter means and oil from the crankcase, and comprising means for connection to the crankcase to return the oil and particles collected by the filter thereto.

10. (previously presented) The combination as claimed in claim 9, wherein the filter container has a fixed position in relation to the internal combustion engine.

11. (previously presented) The combination as claimed in claim 9, wherein the filter container has a predetermined angle in relation to the internal combustion engine.

12. (previously presented) The combination as claimed in claim 9, wherein the fibrous material is comprised of fiber mats, in which the fibers have a diameter of 1-40 μm .

13. (new) The combination as claimed in claim 11, wherein the liquid outlet is in the inlet chamber.

14. (new) Device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the liquid outlet is in the inlet chamber.